Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-07 IO-13 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /088 W -------281324 071369 /46

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1781

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION BERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL MUNICH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TU,RO, GR, BU, YO, UR SUBJECT: BALKAN COOPERATION

REF: BUCHAREST 468

1. TURKISH COUNSELOR (ERIKAN) TOLD EMBOFF FEBRUARY 24 THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD "FINALLY" COMPLETED AND CIRCULATED ITS LIST OF MULTILATERAL BALKAN ECONOMIC PROPOSALS. THIS WAS APPARENTLY DONE A WEEK OR SO AGO AND LEAVES BULGARIA AS LONE HOLD-OUT AMONG THOSE STATES WHO ATTENDED JANUARY 1976 ATHENS BALKAN CONFERENCE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ERIKAN HAD IMPRESSION THAT GOB WAS EVEN MORE OPPOSED TO CONVENING A SECOND CONFERENCE THAN IT HAD BEEN TO FIRST ATHENS MEETING. HOWEVER, HE SPECULATED THAT, EVEN FOR BULGARIANS, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO BE SEEN AS "ODD-MAN" OUT. FOR THIS REASON, HE FELT A SECOND MEETING PRIOR TO FALL CSCE BELGRADE MEETING WAS POSSIBLE. ERIKAN

SAID ROMANIANS HAVE BEEN PRESSING TURKS TO ASSIST IN DRAGGING GOB TO CONFERENCE TABLE, PLEADING THAT THEY (THE ROMANIANS) HAD ALREADY DONE ALL THEY COULD. ERIKAN WAS GREATLY INTERESTED IN EXCHANGE OF RECENT LETTERS BETWEEN GREEK PREMIER CARAMANLIS AND BULGARIAN LEADER ZHIVKOV, BUT DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR CONTENT. HE DID NOT BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT BULGARIANS WERE INSISTING ON HUNGARIAN OR OTHER PARTICIPATION AS A PRE-CONDITION TO THEIR OWN.

2. RECENT ARTICLE IN ROMANIAN NEWS WEEKLY LUMEA (FEBRUARY 10, 1977) REITERATES STRONG GOR INTEREST IN BALKAN COOPERATION AS PART AND PARCEL OF EUROPEAN SECURITY. ARTICLE NOTES THAT BALKAN STATES, THROUGH THEIR OWN SOCIAL SYSTEMS, REPRODUCE, ON SMALLER SCALE, GENERAL POST-WORLD WAR II EUROPEAN SITUATION, I.E., CAPITALIST AND SOCIALIST STATES, STATES BELONGING TO MILITARY GROUPS AND OTHERS WHICH DO NOT. HOWEVER, ROMANIANS ARGUE THAT BALKAN COOPERATION HAS BEEN LESS "TAINTED" BY OPTICS OF "BLOC POLITICS" THAN HAS EUROPE IN GENERAL AND THUS SHOULD SERVE AS USEFUL EXAMPLE. IT POINTS OUT THAT EVEN WHEN BALKAN TENSIONS HAVE OCCURED, I.E., TURKISH-GREEK DIFFICULTIES OVER CYPRUS AND AGEAN. THESE HAVE NOT BEEN BETWEEN STATES OF DIFFERENT SOCIAL SYSTEMS. AS IS USUAL, ARTICLE EMPHASIZES THAT BALKAN COOPERATION NEITHER THREATENS NOR INJURES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANYONE, I.E., THE SOVIETS. IT ALSO PRAISES
EXISTING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COOPERATION
AMONG BALKAN STATES, AND PLUGS ONCE AGAIN FOR
OLD ROMANIAN STAND-BY OF BALKAN NUCLEAR
FREE ZONE. ARTICLE ENDS BY NOTING "PERMANENT
ASSOCIATION" WHICH ROMANIA MAKES BETWEEN BALKAN
AND EUROPEAN COOPERATION.
BARNES

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